

1 Regina A. Habermas, Esq.  
2 Nevada Bar No. 8481  
3 GHIDOTTI | BERGER LLP  
4 415 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, #310  
5 Las Vegas, NV 89101  
6 Tel: (949) 427-2010  
7 Fax: (949) 427-2732  
8 ghabermas@ghidottiberger.com  
9 Attorneys for Secured Creditors,  
10 U.S. Bank Trust National Association as Trustee of the Lodge Series III Trust,  
11 U.S. Bank Trust National Association as Trustee of the Chalet Series III Trust,  
12 U.S. Bank Trust National Association as Trustee of the Bungalow Series IV Trust, and  
13 U.S. Bank Trust National Association as Trustee of the Bungalow Series F Trust

14 UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
15  
16 DISTRICT OF NEVADA – LAS VEGAS DIVISION

17 In Re:

18 MELANIE SCHULTE and  
19 WILLIAM SCHULTE,

20 2704 SATTLEY LLC,  
21 HOT ENDEAVOR LLC,  
22 1341 MINUET LLC,  
23 1708 PLATO PICO LLC,  
24 2228 WARM WALNUT LLC,  
25 9425 VALLEY HILLS LLC,  
26 9500 ASPEN GLOW LLC,  
27 5218 MISTY MORNING LLC,  
28 CHERISH LLC,  
SABRECO INC.,  
KEEP SAFE LLC,

Debtors.

Case No.: 09-29123-mkn

Chapter 11

Jointly Administered with:

09-27238-BAM  
09-27909-BAM  
09-27910-BAM  
09-27911-BAM  
09-27912-BAM  
09-27913-BAM  
09-27914-BAM  
09-27916-BAM  
09-28513-BAM  
09-31584-BAM  
09-31585-BAM

**MOTION TO CLARIFY PLAN  
TREATMENT REGARDING VARIOUS  
REAL PROPERTIES**

Secured Creditors, U.S. Bank Trust National Association as Trustee of the Lodge Series III Trust, U.S. Bank Trust National Association as Trustee of the Chalet Series III Trust, U.S. Bank Trust National Association as Trustee of the Bungalow Series IV Trust, and

1 U.S. Bank Trust National Association as Trustee of the Bungalow Series F Trust (collectively,  
2 “Secured Creditors”), by and through undersigned counsel, hereby move this Court for an  
3 Order clarifying the treatment of Secured Creditors’ Claims pursuant to Debtors’ Third  
4 Amended Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization (Doc. 834, filed November 23, 2010), which  
5 was confirmed by this Court on March 8, 2011 (Doc. 912).

6 This Motion is based upon the following Memorandum of Point and Authorities, the  
7 Declaration of SN Servicing Corporation in Support of Motion to Clarify Plan Treatment  
8 Regarding Various Real Properties filed concurrently herewith, the papers on file herein, and  
9 any oral argument permitted by the Court.

10 DATED: May 21, 2021

GHIDOTTI | BERGER LLP

11 By: /s/ Regina A. Habermas, Esq.  
12 Regina A. Habermas, Esq.  
13 Nevada Bar No. 8481  
14 415 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, #310  
15 Las Vegas, NV 89101  
16 ghabermas@ghidottiberger.com  
17 Attorneys for Secured Creditors  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

## MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

### I. INTRODUCTION

This Court confirmed a plan of reorganization in the above-captioned action on March 8, 2011 and a dispute has arisen regarding the treatment of certain claims in the plan confirmed by this Court. The Debtors and various secured creditors in these jointly-administered cases agreed to the treatment of claims through stipulations and orders entered by the Court. However, Schulte Properties LLC, an entity that now holds title to the real properties treated in the confirmed plan, is misinterpreting the provisions of that plan and asserting that various servicers and investors have somehow improperly serviced loans since the confirmation of the plan.

Schulte Properties, LLC has filed its own bankruptcy action, Case Number 18-12734-mkn, and recently obtained Court approval to retain special litigation counsel to pursue claims against lenders and servicers and to file objections to most of the claims filed in the 2018 action. Secured Creditors therefore seek an Order of this Court interpreting the language of Debtors' confirmed plan and specifically concluding that the Debtors' confirmed plan did not eliminate the escrow portions of Secured Creditors' loans.

### II. FACTUAL BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On October 11, 2009, Debtors Melani Schulte and William R. Schulte filed the Voluntary Petition that initiated the above-captioned Chapter 11 bankruptcy action (Doc. 1). On March 22, 2010, the Court entered an Order Granting Amended and Renewed Motion of the Debtors for the Entry of an Order under Fed. R. Bankr. P. 1015(b), Directing Joint Administration, pursuant to which several bankruptcy actions filed by related debtors were joined for procedural purposes only (Doc. 128). On November 23, 2010, Debtors filed their Third Amended Joint Plan of Reorganization of Melani Schulte and William R. Schulte (Doc. 834). On March 8, 2011, the Court entered its Order Confirming the Debtors' Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization (Doc. 912, the "Confirmation Order"). A copy of the confirmed Plan is attached to the Confirmation Order and the Confirmation Order did not substantively alter the terms of the Plan's treatment of claims. *Id.* Debtors' Plan classified 40 different secured

1 claims within Class 1 and Class 2 (Doc. 912, p. 32-54). Class 1 was unimpaired, but all of the  
 2 claims included within Class 2 were impaired. *Id.* The treatment of the secured claims within  
 3 Class 2 was generally the same and the differences were related to the fact that each claim was  
 4 secured by a different parcel of real property and some claims would be paid at higher interest  
 5 rates than others. *Id.*

6 Secured Creditors, or their predecessors-in-interest, filed proofs of claim evidencing  
 7 claims secured by real property of the estate as detailed below. They also entered into  
 8 stipulations regarding the treatment of their claims or resolved motions by agreeing on plan  
 9 treatment as detailed below.

10 **A. 8216 Peaceful Canyon Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89134 (the “Peaceful Canyon**  
 11 **Property”)**

12 Proof of Claim No. 5, filed on November 5, 2009, evidenced a total claim of  
 13 \$86,994.02, with pre-petition arrears of \$8,606.19, secured by the real property commonly  
 14 known as 8216 Peaceful Canyon Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89134 (the “Peaceful Canyon  
 15 Claim”). *See* Claim 5-1 and Declaration of SN Servicing Corporation in Support of Motion to  
 16 Clarify Treatment Regarding Various Real Properties, filed concurrently herewith (the “SN  
 17 Declaration”). The maturity date of the loan was April 1, 2024 and the monthly payment due  
 18 on the loan at the time the Petition was filed was \$1,032.70, which consisted of \$762.76 for  
 19 principal and interest and \$269.94 for escrow. *Id.* True and correct copies of the Note and  
 20 Deed of Trust were attached to the Peaceful Canyon Claim, which is currently held by U.S.  
 21 Bank Trust National Association as Trustee of the Lodge Series III Trust. *Id.*

22 The holder of the Peaceful Canyon Claim entered into a Stipulation and Order re:  
 23 Debtors’ Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization by JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. on January 20,  
 24 2011 (the “Peaceful Canyon Stipulation,” Doc. 863). The parties agreed that the holder of the  
 25 Peaceful Canyon Claim had a secured claim in the amount of at least \$86,994.02 to be  
 26 amortized over 30 years at an interest rate of 5% per annum. *Id.* The parties also agreed that  
 27 the monthly payment of principal and interest would be \$467.00, which is the minimum  
 28 monthly payment required to repay the outstanding balance of \$86,994.02 at 5% interest over

1 30 years. *Id.* The parties further agreed Debtors “shall maintain real property taxes and real  
 2 property hazard insurance paid current for the Subject Property.” *Id.* Finally, the parties  
 3 agreed, “[e]xcept as otherwise expressly provided herein, all remaining terms of the Note and  
 4 Deed of Trust shall govern the treatment of Secured Creditor’s Claim.” *Id.* The Order  
 5 approving the Peaceful Canyon Stipulation was entered on January 21, 2011 (Doc. 869).

6 **B. 1624 Desert Canyon Court, Las Vegas, NV 89128 (the “Desert Canyon  
 7 Property”)**

8 Proof of Claim No. 37, filed on January 5, 2010, evidenced a total claim of  
 9 \$90,620.12, with pre-petition arrears of \$12,943.01, secured by the real property commonly  
 10 known as 1624 Desert Canyon Court, Las Vegas, NV 89128 (the “Desert Canyon Claim”).  
 11 *See* Claim 37-1 and SN Declaration. The maturity date of the loan was September 1, 2016  
 12 and the monthly payment due on the loan at the time the Petition was filed was \$1,541.50,  
 13 which consisted of \$1,248.60 for principal and interest and \$292.90 for escrow. *Id.* True and  
 14 correct copies of the Note and Deed of Trust were attached to the Desert Canyon Claim,  
 15 which is currently held by U.S. Bank Trust National Association as Trustee of the Lodge  
 16 Series III Trust. *Id.*

17 The holder of the Desert Canyon Claim entered into a Stipulation re: Treatment of  
 18 Citimortgage, Inc.’s Claim under Debtors’ Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization on March 16,  
 19 2011 (the “Desert Canyon Stipulation,” Doc. 915). The parties agreed that the Desert Canyon  
 20 Claim would remain fully secured over a term of 30 years at an interest rate of 5.25% per  
 21 annum. *Id.* The parties also agreed that the monthly payment of principal and interest would  
 22 be \$500.12. *Id.* The parties further agreed, “[i]n addition to Principal and Interest Payments,  
 23 Debtors shall tender to Creditor regular monthly escrow payments for advances made by  
 24 Creditor for the maintenance of real property taxes and real property hazard insurances for the  
 25 Subject Property.” *Id.* Finally, the parties agreed, “[e]xcept as otherwise expressly provided  
 26 herein, all remaining terms of the Note and Deed of Trust shall govern the treatment of  
 27 Secured Creditor’s Claim.” *Id.* The Order approving the Desert Canyon Stipulation was  
 28 entered on March 18, 2011 (Doc. 923).

**C. 1194 Stormy Valley Road, Las Vegas, NV 89123 (the “Stormy Valley Property”)**

Proof of Claim No. 39, filed on January 7, 2010, evidenced a total claim of \$113,403.16, with pre-petition arrears of \$9,738.59, secured by the real property commonly known as 1194 Stormy Valley Road, Las Vegas, NV 89123 (the “Stormy Valley Claim”). *See* Claim 39-1 and SN Declaration. The maturity date of the loan was December 1, 2030 and the monthly payment due on the loan at the time the Petition was filed was \$1,052.33, which consisted of \$857.03 for principal and interest and \$195.30 for escrow. *Id.* True and correct copies of the Note and Deed of Trust were attached to the Stormy Valley Claim, which is currently held by U.S. Bank Trust National Association as Trustee of the Chalet Series III Trust. *Id.*

The holder of the Stormy Valley Claim entered into a Stipulation re: Treatment of Citimortgage, Inc.’s Claim under Debtors’ Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization on March 16, 2011 (the “Stormy Valley Stipulation,” Doc. 920). The parties agreed that the Stormy Valley Claim would remain fully secured over a term of 30 years at an interest rate of 5.25% per annum. *Id.* The parties also agreed that the monthly payment of principal and interest would be \$591.75. *Id.* The parties further agreed, “[i]n addition to Principal and Interest Payments, Debtors shall tender to Creditor regular monthly escrow payments for advances made by Creditor for the maintenance of real property taxes and real property hazard insurances for the Subject Property.” *Id.* Finally, the parties agreed, “[e]xcept as otherwise expressly provided herein, all remaining terms of the Note and Deed of Trust shall govern the treatment of Secured Creditor’s Claim.” *Id.* The Order approving the Stormy Valley Stipulation was entered on March 18, 2011 (Doc. 928).

**D. 922 Saddle Horn Drive, Henderson, NV 89015 (the “Saddle Horn Property”)**

Proof of Claim No. 40, filed on January 7, 2010, evidenced a total claim of \$101,557.56, with pre-petition arrears of \$7,965.21, secured by the real property commonly known as 922 Saddle Horn Drive, Henderson, NV 89015 (the “Saddle Horn Claim”). *See* Claim 40-1 and SN Declaration. The maturity date of the loan was December 1, 2030 and the

1 monthly payment due on the loan at the time the Petition was filed was \$940.66, which  
 2 consisted of \$759.87 for principal and interest and \$180.79 for escrow. *Id.* True and correct  
 3 copies of the Note and Deed of Trust were attached to the Saddle Horn Claim, which is  
 4 currently held by U.S. Bank Trust National Association as Trustee of the Bungalow Series F  
 5 Trust. *Id.*

6 The holder of the Saddle Horn Claim entered into a Stipulation re: Treatment of  
 7 Citimortgage, Inc.'s Claim under Debtors' Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization on March 16,  
 8 2011 (the "Saddle Horn Stipulation," Doc. 920). The parties agreed that the Saddle Horn  
 9 Claim would remain fully secured over a term of 30 years at an interest rate of 5.25% per  
 10 annum. *Id.* The parties also agreed that the monthly payment of principal and interest would  
 11 be \$534.17. *Id.* The parties further agreed, "[i]n addition to Principal and Interest Payments,  
 12 Debtors shall tender to Creditor regular monthly escrow payments for advances made by  
 13 Creditor for the maintenance of real property taxes and real property hazard insurances for the  
 14 Subject Property." *Id.* Finally, the parties agreed, "[e]xcept as otherwise expressly provided  
 15 herein, all remaining terms of the Note and Deed of Trust shall govern the treatment of  
 16 Secured Creditor's Claim." *Id.* The Order approving the Saddle Horn Stipulation was entered  
 17 on March 18, 2011 (Doc. 927).

18 **E. 4521 W. La Madre Way, North Las Vegas, NV 89031 (the "La Madre**  
 19 **Property")**

20 Proof of Claim No. 41, filed on January 7, 2010, evidenced a total claim of  
 21 \$78,029.90, with pre-petition arrears of \$10,691.27, secured by the real property commonly  
 22 known as 4521 W. La Madre Way, North Las Vegas, NV 89031 (the "La Madre Claim"). *See*  
 23 Claim 41-1 and SN Declaration. The maturity date of the loan was July 1, 2016 and the  
 24 monthly payment due on the loan at the time the Petition was filed was \$1,256.92, which  
 25 consisted of \$1,049.83 for principal and interest and \$207.09 for escrow. *Id.* True and correct  
 26 copies of the Note and Deed of Trust were attached to the La Madre Claim, which is currently  
 27 held by U.S. Bank Trust National Association as Trustee of the Lodge Series III Trust. *Id.*

28 The holder of the La Madre Claim entered into a Stipulation re: Treatment of

1 Citimortgage, Inc.'s Claim under Debtors' Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization on March 16,  
 2 2011 (the "La Madre Stipulation," Doc. 918). The parties agreed that the La Madre Claim  
 3 would remain fully secured over a term of 30 years at an interest rate of 5.25% per annum. *Id.*  
 4 The parties also agreed that the monthly payment of principal and interest would be \$410.31.  
 5 *Id.* The parties further agreed, "[i]n addition to Principal and Interest Payments, Debtors shall  
 6 tender to Creditor regular monthly escrow payments for advances made by Creditor for the  
 7 maintenance of real property taxes and real property hazard insurances for the Subject  
 8 Property." *Id.* Finally, the parties agreed, "[e]xcept as otherwise expressly provided herein,  
 9 all remaining terms of the Note and Deed of Trust shall govern the treatment of Secured  
 10 Creditor's Claim." *Id.* The Order approving the La Madre Stipulation was entered on  
 11 March 18, 2011 (Doc. 926).

12 **F. 2525 Via Di Autostrada, Henderson, NV 89074 (the "Autostrada Property")**

13 Proof of Claim No. 42, filed on January 7, 2010, evidenced a total claim of  
 14 \$89,351.45, with pre-petition arrears of \$11,923.89, secured by the real property commonly  
 15 known as 2525 Via Di Autostrada, Henderson, NV 89074 (the "Autostrada Claim"). *See*  
 16 Claim 42-1 and SN Declaration. The maturity date of the loan was January 1, 2017 and the  
 17 monthly payment due on the loan at the time the Petition was filed was \$1,419.15, which  
 18 consisted of \$1,133.55 for principal and interest and \$285.60 for escrow. *Id.* True and correct  
 19 copies of the Note and Deed of Trust were attached to the Autostrada Claim, which is  
 20 currently held by U.S. Bank Trust National Association as Trustee of the Chalet Series III  
 21 Trust. *Id.*

22 The holder of the Autostrada Claim entered into a Stipulated Order re: Treatment of  
 23 Citimortgage, Inc.'s Claim under Debtors' Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization on February 24,  
 24 2011 (the "Autostrada Stipulation," Doc. 903). The parties agreed that the Autostrada Claim  
 25 would remain fully secured over a term of 30 years at an interest rate of 5.25% per annum. *Id.*  
 26 The parties also agreed that the monthly payment of principal and interest would be \$470.92.  
 27 *Id.* The parties further agreed, "[i]n addition to Principal and Interest Payments, Debtors shall  
 28 tender to Creditor regular monthly escrow payments for advances made by Creditor for the



1 maintenance of real property taxes and real property hazard insurances for the Subject  
 2 Property.” *Id.* Finally, the parties agreed, “[e]xcept as otherwise expressly provided herein,  
 3 all remaining terms of the Note and Deed of Trust shall govern the treatment of Secured  
 4 Creditor’s Claim.” *Id.* The Order approving the Autostrada Stipulation was entered on  
 5 February 25, 2011 (Doc. 904).

6 **G. 3322 Cheltenham Street, Las Vegas, NV 89129 (the “Cheltenham**  
 7 **Property”)**

8 Proof of Claim No. 45, filed on January 13, 2010, evidenced a total claim of  
 9 \$219,743.14, with pre-petition arrears of \$13,684.22, secured by the real property commonly  
 10 known as 3322 Cheltenham Street, Las Vegas, NV 89129 (the “Cheltenham Claim”). *See*  
 11 Claim 45-1 and SN Declaration. The maturity date of the loan was January 1, 2035 and the  
 12 monthly payment due on the loan at the time the Petition was filed was \$1,693.22, which  
 13 consisted of \$1,478.80 for principal and interest and \$214.42 for escrow. *Id.* True and correct  
 14 copies of the Note and Deed of Trust were attached to the Cheltenham Claim, which is  
 15 currently held by U.S. Bank Trust National Association as Trustee of the Bungalow Series IV  
 16 Trust. *Id.*

17 The holder of the Cheltenham Claim filed a Motion for Relief from Automatic Stay on  
 18 June 18, 2010 (Doc. 340). The parties entered into an Agreed Order re Adequate Protection,  
 19 which was entered on August 31, 2010 (the “Cheltenham Stipulation,” Doc. 593). The parties  
 20 agreed that the holder of the Cheltenham Claim had a secured claim in the amount of  
 21 \$99,806.60 to be amortized over 30 years at an interest rate of 5.25% per annum. *Id.* The  
 22 parties also agreed that the monthly payment of principal and interest would be \$551.14,  
 23 which is the minimum monthly payment required to repay the outstanding balance of  
 24 \$99,806.60 at 5.25% interest over 30 years. *Id.* The parties further agreed Debtors “shall  
 25 maintain insurance on the subject property, naming Secured Creditor as loss payee as well as  
 26 maintain the property taxes on the subject property.” *Id.*

27 **H. 5609 San Ardo Place, Las Vegas, NV 89130 (the “San Ardo Property”)**

28 Proof of Claim No. 58, filed on February 5, 2010, evidenced a total claim of

1 \$100,709.15, with pre-petition arrears of \$8,471.58, secured by the real property commonly  
 2 known as 5609 San Ardo Place, Las Vegas, NV 89130 (the “San Ardo Claim”). *See* Claim  
 3 58-1 and SN Declaration. The maturity date of the loan was September 1, 2028 and the  
 4 monthly payment due on the loan at the time the Petition was filed was \$984.74, which  
 5 consisted of \$754.97 for principal and interest and \$229.77 for escrow. *Id.* True and correct  
 6 copies of the Note and Deed of Trust were attached to the San Ardo Claim, which is currently  
 7 held by U.S. Bank Trust National Association as Trustee of the Lodge Series III Trust. *Id.*

8 The holder of the San Ardo Claim entered into a Stipulated Order Regarding  
 9 Treatment of Citimortgage, Inc.’s Claim under Debtors’ Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization on  
 10 February 24, 2011 (the “San Ardo Stipulation,” Doc. 902). The parties agreed that the San  
 11 Ardo Claim would remain fully secured over a term of 30 years at an interest rate of 5.25%  
 12 per annum. *Id.* The parties also agreed that the monthly payment of principal and interest  
 13 would be \$555.37. *Id.* The parties further agreed, “[i]n addition to Principal and Interest  
 14 Payments, Debtors shall tender to Creditor regular monthly escrow payments for advances  
 15 made by Creditor for the maintenance of real property taxes and real property hazard  
 16 insurances for the Subject Property.” *Id.* Finally, the parties agreed, “[e]xcept as otherwise  
 17 expressly provided herein, all remaining terms of the Note and Deed of Trust shall govern the  
 18 treatment of Secured Creditor’s Claim.” *Id.*

19 **I. 8562 Lambert Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89147 (the “Lambert Property”)**

20 No proof of claim was filed for the claim secured by the real property common known  
 21 as 8562 Lambert Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89147 (the “Lambert Claim”). *See* SN Declaration.  
 22 The monthly payment due on the loan at the time the Petition was filed was \$1,237.76, which  
 23 consisted of \$1,036.91 for principal and interest and \$200.85 for escrow. *Id.* True and correct  
 24 copies of the Note and Deed of Trust evidencing the Lambert Claim are attached to the SN  
 25 Declaration and the Lambert Claim is currently held by U.S. Bank Trust National Association  
 26 as Trustee of the Bungalow Series IV Trust. *Id.* It does not appear that the holder of the  
 27 Lambert Claim entered into a stipulation regarding treatment of the Lambert Claim or filed  
 28 any motions that resulted in an agreement of the parties regarding the payments to be made on

1 the Lambert Claim.

### 2 III. ARGUMENT

3 This Court has jurisdiction to interpret the confirmed Plan and determine what impact,  
4 if any, that Plan had on the terms of Secured Creditors' Notes and Deeds of Trust. The plain  
5 language of the Plan altered certain, specified terms of Secured Creditors' loans and stated  
6 Secured Creditors' claims would otherwise be paid as required by the Notes and Deeds of  
7 Trust. Should the Court find the language of the Plan to be ambiguous, the agreements of the  
8 parties and underlying loan documents demonstrate the escrow impounds were not eliminated  
9 from Secured Creditors' loans when the Plan was confirmed.

#### 10 A. This Court Retains Jurisdiction to Interpret the Confirmed Plan and 11 Confirmation Order

12 Although the Plan was confirmed in March 2011 and Debtors were discharged in  
13 December 2015, this Court retains jurisdiction to hear and decide the parties' dispute  
14 concerning the treatment of Secured Creditor's claims in the Plan. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C.  
15 § 1334(b), this Court has jurisdiction of "all civil proceedings arising under title 11, or arising  
16 in or related to cases under title 11." Here, the Court has "related to" jurisdiction of the  
17 present dispute. As the Ninth Circuit has noted, "[a] bankruptcy court's 'related to'  
18 jurisdiction is very broad, including nearly every matter directly or indirectly related to the  
19 bankruptcy." *In re Wilshire Courtyard*, 729 F.3d 1279, 1287 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2013) (citation  
20 omitted). In 2005, the Ninth Circuit adopted the Third Circuit's "close nexus" test to  
21 determine whether a bankruptcy court has "related to" jurisdiction over post-confirmation  
22 issues. *See In re Pegasus Gold Corp.*, 394 F.3d 1189, 1194 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir.2005). The "close  
23 nexus" test "encompasses matters affecting the interpretation, implementation, consummation,  
24 execution, or administration of the confirmed plan." *In re Wilshire Courtyard*, 729 F.3d at  
25 1287 (citation and internal quotations omitted). The test "recognizes the limited nature of  
26 post-confirmation jurisdiction but retains a certain flexibility." *Id.*

27 Here, the Court clearly has "related to" jurisdiction to resolve the parties' dispute  
28 concerning the terms of the confirmed Plan. The "close nexus" test expressly contemplates

1 the retention of jurisdiction to interpret the terms of a confirmed plan. In addition, the Court  
 2 that confirmed the Plan is in the best position to interpret the treatment of claims within the  
 3 Plan.

4 **B. The Confirmed Plan Did Not Eliminate the Escrow Impounds of the Loans**  
 5 **Secured by the Subject Properties**

6 The Plan confirmed by this Court made very limited, specific changes to the loans  
 7 secured by the subject properties. Where a bankruptcy plan has been confirmed, the  
 8 interpretation of that plan is governed by state law. *Hillis Motors, Inc. v. Hawaii Auto.*  
 9 *Dealers' Ass'n*, 997 F.2d 581, 588 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1993) (a plan “resembles a consent decree and  
 10 therefore, should be construed basically as a contract” under state law). In Nevada,  
 11 “construction of a contractual term is a question of law.” *Anvui LLC v. G.L. Dragon, LLC*,  
 12 123 Nev. 212, 215, 163 P.3d 405, 407 (2007) (citation omitted). Further, unambiguous  
 13 contracts are to be construed “according to their plain language.” *Sheehan & Sheehan v.*  
 14 *Nelson Malley and Co.*, 121 Nev. 481, 487-88, 117 P.3d 219, 223-24 (2005) (citation  
 15 omitted). A contract is only ambiguous “when it is subject to more than one reasonable  
 16 interpretation” and any ambiguity “should be construed against the drafter.” *Anvui*, 123 Nev.  
 17 at 215-216, 163 P.3d at 407 (citations omitted). Finally, where a contract is ambiguous, a  
 18 court must “effectuate the intent of the parties, which may be determined in light of the  
 19 surrounding circumstances if not clear from the contract itself.” *Sheehan*, 121 Nev. at 487-88,  
 20 117 P.3d at 223-24 (citations omitted).

21 In this case, the plain language of the Plan demonstrates the changes to Secured  
 22 Creditors’ loans did not include the elimination of required escrow payments by Debtors.  
 23 Even if the Court were to conclude the language of the Plan is ambiguous, a review of the  
 24 parties’ agreements regarding plan treatment establishes the parties did not intend to remove  
 25 the escrow impounds from the loans. Therefore, the Plan did not alter the obligations of  
 26 Debtors to make escrow payments.

27 **1. The Plain Language of the Plan Shows Debtors Continue to Be Obligated to**  
 28 **Make Escrow Payments**

Here, the plain language of the Plan altered only three portions of each secured claim

1 treated in Class 2 and none of those alterations eliminated the escrow impound on Secured  
 2 Creditors' loans. The treatment of each of Secured Creditors' claims in the Plan is identical  
 3 except for the identification of the Class within which each claim falls and the interest rate to  
 4 be applied. The language of the Plan is as follows,

5 (b) *Treatment:* The holder of the allowed Class [2(\*)] Secured Claim shall  
 6 be impaired and paid the allowed amount of its claim as set forth on  
 7 **Exhibit 1** attached hereto, amortized at [5% or 5.25%] over 30 years,  
and in accordance with all other terms of its related note and mortgage.

8 *See*, Plan, Article II, Classification of Claims, Section 2.01, Class 2(y), Peaceful Canyon  
 9 Claim (Doc. 912, p. 16); Class 2(j), Desert Canyon Claim (Doc. 912, p. 38); Class 2(ii),  
 10 Stormy Valley Claim (Doc. 912, p. 51); Class 2(dd), Saddle Horn Claim (Doc. 912, p. 49);  
 11 Class 2(r), La Madre Claim (Doc. 912, p. 42); Class 2(ll), Autostrada Claim (Doc. 912, p. 23);  
 12 Class 2(h), Cheltenham Claim (Doc. 912, p. 37); Class 2(ee), San Ardo Claim (Doc. 912,  
 13 p. 49); Class 2(s), Lambert Claim (Doc. 912, p. 43) (italic and bold emphasis in original,  
 14 underline emphasis added).

15 This language is not ambiguous because it is not subject to more than one reasonable  
 16 interpretation. Rather, the language makes it clear that the Plan altered only three provisions  
 17 of each loan: 1) the outstanding principal balance of the loan; 2) the interest rate to be paid;  
 18 and 3) the term during which payments were to be made. Otherwise, the terms of each note  
 19 and deed of trust remained unchanged. Therefore, secured claims arising out of loans that  
 20 included an escrow impound continued to include an escrow impound upon confirmation of  
 21 the Plan.

22 Moreover, the Plan is silent with respect to the payment of real property taxes and  
 23 insurance on the numerous real properties addressed in the Plan. The absence of any language  
 24 regarding payment of those sums post-confirmation is further evidence that the Plan did not  
 25 alter or amend the terms of Secured Creditors' loans with respect to such payments. The  
 26 language of the Plan is clear and expressly states that, other than the specified alterations, the  
 27 secured claims would be treated in accordance with the requirements of the underlying notes  
 28 and deeds of trust. Therefore, following the confirmation of the Plan, Debtors remained

obligated to make escrow payments on Secured Creditors' loans.

## 2. The Parties Did Not Intend to Eliminate the Escrow Impounds

Secured Creditors contend the language of the Plan is unambiguous, but anticipate Debtors may argue it is ambiguous with respect to the payment of real property taxes and insurance on the Subject Properties. Such an argument is not persuasive. Even if the Court concludes the Plan treatment is ambiguous, there is ample evidence of the parties' intentions from which to conclude the Plan did not eliminate the escrow impounds on Secured Creditors' loans.

As detailed above, the holders of six of the claims at issue in this Motion entered into plan treatment stipulations that identified the monthly payment required to pay off the outstanding balance over 30 years at the stated interest rate and included an identical provision regarding Debtors' obligation to make escrow payments to the Secured Creditors,

In addition to Principal and Interest Payments, Debtors shall tender to Creditor regular monthly payments for advances made by Creditor for the maintenance of real property taxes and real property hazard insurances for the Subject Property.

*See* Desert Canyon Stipulation (Doc. 915), Stormy Valley Stipulation (Doc. 928), Saddle Horn Stipulation (Doc. 920), La Madre Stipulation (Doc. 918), Autostrada Stipulation (Doc. 903), San Ardo Stipulation (Doc. 902) (emphasis added). This provision demonstrates the escrow portion of the loans evidenced by these six claims were not eliminated by the confirmed Plan.

The holders of two of the remaining three claims entered into a plan treatment stipulation and an agreed adequate protection order that included a requirement that Debtors maintain real property taxes and insurance on the properties addressed in those stipulations. *See* Peaceful Canyon Stipulation (Doc. 863) and Cheltenham Order (Doc. 593). This language echoes the language of each deed of trust that requires the borrower to pay to the lender sums for taxes and hazard or property insurance. With respect to the Peaceful Canyon claim, the Deed of Trust states, in pertinent part,

...Borrower shall pay to Lender on the day monthly payments are due under the

1 Note, until the Note is paid in full, a sum (“Funds”) for: (a) yearly taxes and  
 2 assessments which may attain priority over this Security Instrument as a lien on  
 3 the Property;...(c) yearly hazard or property insurance premiums...These items  
 are called “Escrow Items”.

4 *See* Claim 5-1, Part 2, p. 2, Section 2. Funds for Taxes and Insurance.

5 With respect to the Cheltenham Claim, the Deed of Trust states, in pertinent part,

6 ...Borrower shall pay when due the principal of, and interest on, the debt  
 7 evidenced by the Note and any prepayment charges and late charges due under  
 the Note. Borrower shall also pay funds for Escrow Items pursuant to Section  
 8 3...

9 Borrower shall pay to Lender on the day Periodic Payments are due under the  
 10 Note, until the Note is paid in full, a sum (the “Funds”) to provide the payment  
 of amounts due for: (a) taxes and assessments and other items which can attain  
 11 priority over this Security Instrument as a lien or encumbrance on the  
 Property;...(c) premiums any and all insurance required by Lender under  
 Section 5;...These items are called “Escrow Items.”

12 *See* Claim 45-1, p. 11-12, Section 1. Payment of Principal, Interest, Escrow Items,  
 13 Prepayment Charges, and Late Charges and Section 3. Funds for Escrow Items. The Debtors  
 14 were required to make escrow payments to the holders of the Peaceful Canyon Claim and  
 15 Cheltenham Claim prior to filing their bankruptcy actions and neither the parties’ agreements  
 16 nor the confirmed Plan included an express waiver of these requirements. As such, the Court  
 17 should conclude the parties did not intend to eliminate the escrow impounds required under  
 18 the terms of these two loans.

19 Finally, the holder of the Lambert Claim did not enter into an agreement with Debtors  
 20 regarding the treatment of the Lambert Claim. However, the Deed of Trust that secures the  
 21 Lambert Claim includes provisions that are identical to those included in the Deed of Trust  
 22 securing the Cheltenham Claim. *See Exhibit “A-2”* to SN Declaration, p. 3-4, Section 1.  
 23 Payment of Principal, Interest, Escrow Items, Prepayment Charges, and Late Charges and  
 24 Section 3. Funds for Escrow Items. Just as with the Cheltenham Claim, the borrower was  
 25 contractually obligated to make escrow payments to the holder of the Lambert Claim prior to  
 26 filing the bankruptcy action. The confirmed Plan contains no language expressly waiving or  
 27 altering that requirement. As such, the Court should again conclude the Plan did not eliminate  
 28

1 the escrow impound required under the terms of this loan.

2 **IV. CONCLUSION**

3 Secured Creditors respectfully request this Court enter an Order clarifying the  
4 treatment of Secured Creditors' claims in Debtors' confirmed Plan. Specifically, Secured  
5 Creditors request this Court confirm Secured Creditor's interpretation that the Plan did not  
6 eliminate the requirement that Debtors make escrow payments to Secured Creditors.

7 DATED: May 21, 2021

GHIDOTTI | BERGER LLP

8 By: /s/ Regina A. Habermas, Esq.  
9 Regina A. Habermas, Esq.  
Nevada Bar No. 8481  
10 415 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, #310  
Las Vegas, NV 89101  
11 ghabermas@ghidottiberger.com  
12 Attorneys for Secured Creditors  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28